

# Arritos Flora



ARRITOS FLORA · FREE RESOURCE

## Field Guide

*How to photograph a plant so it tells you its name — and how to keep it well.*

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*I*      **Photograph** six rules for a reliable identification

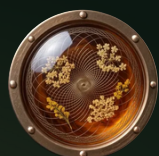
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*II*      **Read a sick leaf** signs, possible causes, first gestures

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*III*      **Care log** a page to print and fill in

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Identification services compare your photo with millions of botanical observations. The clearer the organ, the surer the match.

# Six rules for a reliable identification



## 1. One organ per photo

A flower, a leaf, a fruit or the bark — not the whole plant at once. Each photo should show one thing clearly.



## 2. Fill the frame

Get close until the organ fills most of the picture. Tap to focus: a sharp photo beats a large one.



## 3. Soft, even light

Bright shade or an overcast sky is ideal. Avoid harsh midday sun, strong backlight and the flash.



## 4. A calm background

Slip your hand or a sheet of paper behind a leaf so the plant stands out from the grass and the branches.



## 5. Both sides of the leaf

Veins, hairs and colour underneath are often what tells two species apart. Photograph the top, then the underside.



## 6. Several angles, several organs

Face-on and side-on for a flower; add a leaf, then the bark or the fruit. Each new organ removes a doubt.

## The most telling organs

Flower



Fruit



Leaf, both sides



Bark



Whole plant, for context

## Reading the confidence score

### ●●● High

A confident match. Still look at the details: does the leaf look like the reference pictures?

### ●●○ Middling

Add a photo of another organ — a flower or a fruit usually settles it.

### ●○○ Low, or several close species

Take new photos in better light, closer, one organ at a time.

## In the field

- Wipe the lens — a thumbprint blurs every detail.
- Hold the phone with both hands, elbows tucked in, and breathe out as you shoot.
- In full sun, shade the plant with your own body.
- Look before you pick: a photo is enough, and many species are protected.



# What the leaf is telling you

*A sign rarely has a single cause. Read it together with the soil, the light and the season — then change one thing at a time.*

| WHAT YOU SEE                                       | POSSIBLE CAUSES                               | FIRST GESTURE                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Lower leaves yellowing, soft stems, soil still wet | Too much water, a pot that drains badly       | Let the soil dry out; check the drainage hole       |
| Yellow, drooping leaves, dry soil                  | Not enough water                              | Water deeply, then keep a regular rhythm            |
| Brown, crispy tips or edges                        | Dry air, irregular watering, fertiliser salts | Raise humidity; flush the soil with plenty of water |
| Brown or black spots with a yellow halo            | Fungal or bacterial leaf spot                 | Remove affected leaves; keep foliage dry; give air  |
| White, powdery coating                             | Powdery mildew                                | Cut affected parts; ventilate; avoid crowding       |
| Pale leaves, long and leggy stems                  | Too little light                              | Move closer to a bright window, gradually           |
| Bleached or scorched patches                       | Sunburn                                       | Filter the light with a sheer curtain               |
| Sticky leaves, tiny insects, fine webbing          | Aphids, scale insects, spider mites           | Isolate the plant; rinse and wipe, underside too    |
| Wilting although the soil is wet                   | Root rot                                      | Unpot; trim dark, mushy roots; repot in airy soil   |

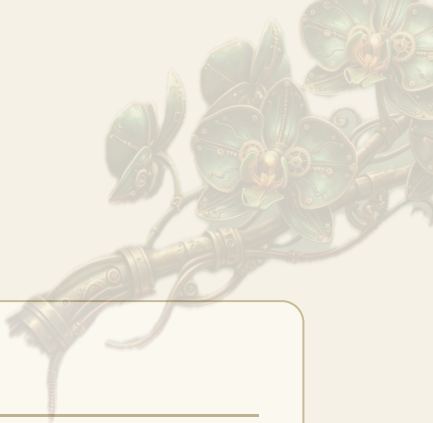
## Photographing a problem

- The affected leaf, top and underside
- A close-up of the symptom, then the whole plant
- Note what changed recently: watering, place, season

## ⚠ Safety first

An identification made by an app can be wrong. Never eat, cook or use as a remedy any plant, berry or mushroom — and never give one to a child or a pet — because an app named it. Many edible plants have toxic look-alikes, and some common plants are toxic to animals (lilies, for cats). If someone has swallowed a plant: poison control centre, or 112 in Europe.

# My plant's care log



COMMON NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

LATIN NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

WHERE IT LIVES (LIGHT, ROOM)

\_\_\_\_\_

WITH ME SINCE

\_\_\_\_\_

| DATE | WATER | LIGHT | FEED | OBSERVATIONS |
|------|-------|-------|------|--------------|
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*Tick what you did · note any change you see — new leaf, spot, bud, move.*